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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

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TO: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley   
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – MCKINLEY  
CHILDREN'S CENTER - MAIN CAMPUS AND NASHPORT**

We have completed a review of Main Campus and Nashport Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by McKinley Children's Center. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Main Campus Group Home is an 88-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 6-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Main Campus Group Home was providing services for 78 Los Angeles County DCFS children, four Los Angeles County Probation children, one Riverside County child, and two San Bernardino County children.

Nashport Group Home is a six bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 12-17 who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Nashport Group Home was providing services for five Los Angeles County DCFS children.

McKinley Children's Center Group Homes are located in the Fifth District.

**Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews

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with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

### **Summary of Findings**

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. However, each Group Home needs to address some deficient areas. The Main Campus and Nashport Group Homes need to develop and maintain current Needs and Services Plans.

Main Campus Group Home needs to replace the kitchen counters and the cottage bathroom floors. Children prescribed psychotropic medication need to have current court authorizations and routine visits with the prescribing psychiatrist.

Nashport Group Home needs to clean or replace the kitchen stove top; clean or replace the carpet in bedroom number one; and clean the ceiling in the front bedroom. The Group Home needs to encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

### **Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management is required to provide a corrective action plan to the Children Services Group Home Ombudsman within 20 business days from the date of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM: MP: CC: gfw

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS  
Paul Higa, Chief Probation Officer  
Al Mason, Executive Director, McKinley Children's Services  
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**McKinley Children's Center  
Main Campus  
762 West Cypress Street  
San Dimas, California 91773  
Phone: (909) 599-1227  
License: 191502075  
Rate Classification Level: 12**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Main Campus Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Agency is adequately maintained. The grounds are clean, landscaped, and secure.

The children reside in eight separate cottages, based on their age and individual needs. The interior of each cottage is maintained. The common quarters of each unit is neat; however, in the kitchen areas of the cottages, the sink counters are worn and stained, and in the cottages bathrooms, the tile floors are worn and not clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the units. The Agency provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR/DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

**Recommendations**

**1. McKinley Children Center management:**

- a. Replace kitchen counters.**
- b. Replace cottage bathroom floors.**

## **II. Program Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: Eight**

**Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children were assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team developed and implemented the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. Three of the children have not been at the Group Home long enough to require a NSP. Two of the children have NSPs that are current, comprehensive, and include long and short-term goals. However, three of the children's NSPs are not current and are duplicates of the prior quarter's NSPs. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services as identified in their NSP.

### **Recommendation**

- 2. McKinley Children's Center management develop and maintain current NSPs for each child.**

## **III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: Eight**

**Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Agency's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Age appropriate children are provided with the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews****Sample size for interviews: Eight****Comments:**

The Agency provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are given the opportunity to participate in planning activities.

Children are allowed to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Agency provides transportation to and from the activities.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**V. Psychotropic Medication****Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents for fifty-nine case files****Sample size for interviews: Seven****Comments:**

One child does not have a current court authorization for psychotropic medication. There is no documentation for one child that confirms that the child is routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

**Recommendations****3. McKinley Children's Center management:**

- a. **Ensure that every child who is prescribed psychotropic medication has a current court authorization on file.**
- b. **Ensure that the prescribing psychiatrist routinely sees each child who is prescribed psychotropic medication.**

## **VI. Personal Rights**

### **Method of assessment –Interviews with children**

**Sample size for interviews: Eight**

#### **Comments:**

Children are informed about the Agency's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Agency, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to have private visitors, to make and receive personal telephone calls, and to send and receive unopened correspondence and mail. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children are given the opportunity to receive or reject voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: Eight**

#### **Comments:**

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the children. The Agency supplies children with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance, and children are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Agency provides children with the required minimum base allowance. Children are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**McKinley Children's Center  
Nashport Group Home  
1005 Nashport Street  
La Verne, California 91750  
Phone: (909) 599-1227  
License: 191501255  
Rate Classification Level: 12**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Nashport Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, adequately landscaped, and secure.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat. However, the kitchen stove top is not clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

The children's bedrooms are adequately maintained. The rooms are orderly, and have age appropriate personalized decorations. However, in the front bedroom there are stains on the ceiling, and in bedroom two there are stains on the carpet. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR/DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

**Recommendations**

**1. McKinley Children Center management:**

- a. Replace or clean the kitchen stove top.**
- b. Clean the ceiling in the front bedroom.**
- c. Replace or clean the carpet in bedroom number one.**



## **II. Program Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children were assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team developed and implemented the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. However, Children's NSPs are not current and are duplicates of the prior quarter's NSPs. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services as identified in their NSP.

### **Recommendation**

- 2. McKinley Children's Center management develop and maintain current NSPs for each child**

## **III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Agency's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Eligible children are provided with the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The Agency provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are given the opportunity to participate in planning activities.

Children are allowed to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Agency provides transportation to and from the activities.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents for two case files**

**Sample size for interviews: N/A**

**Comments:**

According to the Agency there are no children in the group home that are currently being prescribed psychotropic medication. This information is appropriately documented.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **VI. Personal Rights**

**Method of assessment –Interviews with children**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Children are informed about the Agency's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Agency, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to have private visitors, to make and receive personal telephone calls, and to send and receive unopened correspondence and mail. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children are given the opportunity to receive or reject voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**VII. Clothing and Allowance****Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews****Sample size for interviews: Two****Comments:**

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the children. The Agency supplies children with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance, and children are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Agency provides children with the required minimum base allowance. Children are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are not encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

**Recommendation**

- 3. McKinley Children's Center management encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.**